

and Surgery; Late Chairman of Section Diseases of Children, American Medical Association; Ex-President American Association Medical Milk Commissions, etc. New (2d) edition, revised and enlarged. 12mo, 324 pages. Cloth, \$1.00 net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1914. (Lea's Series of Medical Epitomes.)

This small book is one of a series of medical epitomes gotten out by Lea & Febiger. Personally, the reviewer is very much opposed to this type of book in medicine, especially for the student, as it encourages the so-called system of cramming rather than that of careful reading. From the standpoint of the practitioner, however, there may be an excuse for such a book for rapid reference to a subject. There is, of course, nothing new nor original in the book, the author distinctly says it is an epitome and not a text book, and within these limits the author has handled his material well. It would seem that if references to the articles which cover various subjects thoroughly could have been given it would have increased the value of the book considerably. It can only be recommended as a short cut to knowledge and such things are dangerous unless they are in the right hands. In the right hands they may have some value.

W. P. L.

Child Training as an Exact Science. By George W. Jacoby, M. D. With full bibliography and thorough index. 384 pages, 15 full-page illustrations. \$1.50 net; by mail, \$1.62. Funk and Wagnalls Company, Publishers, New York.

This treatise, which is based on the principles of modern psychology, both normal and abnormal, should be read by everyone interested in modern conceptions of the mental development of the child. We are rapidly getting away from the stereotyped principle in pedagogy of treating all children alike. The variability of the individual child is becoming an important feature in pedagogy as well as medicine. Jacoby is well qualified to bring forward not only the psychological but also the pedagogical development of children.

After giving a short historical survey in which fitting tribute is paid to Edouard Seguin and Mme. Montessori, he gives a short résumé of modern principles: the development of the brain and the central nervous system of the child. After dealing with the mental capacity for development as demonstrated by experimental psychology, he goes on to the organic defects or psychic abnormalities of childhood, then to the functional disorders, and finally concludes with the principles underlying therapeutic training of the child. The following quotation from his conclusion very well represents the fair mindedness with which he has developed the subject of child training: "The present day development of pedagogy, as well as of medicine and other sciences, has shown that nothing is so difficult as to free ourselves from the prejudices which obscure our vision and give all our observations a false aspect." This is a book which should be read by every parent, teacher and physician.

W. P. L.

Abdominal Operations. By Sir Berkeley Moynihan, M. S. (London) F. R. C. S., Leeds, England. Third edition, entirely reset and enlarged. Two octavo volumes totaling 980 pages, with 371 illustrations, five in colors. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company, 1914. Cloth, \$10 net; half morocco, \$13 net.

There are some books which it may be audacious to praise and needless to call to public attention;—one of them is this masterwork of a leader in abdominal surgery.

It is characterized, like others of Moynihan's writings, by brevity, clearness, and precision.

It is complete enough to be a real help, and consistent and apposite enough to make every word of value. It contains not only excellent and well illustrated technical descriptions, but also discussion of the author's views on indications for operation, notes on his cases, and exposition of his clinical ideas. It is necessary for every operating surgeon to have read and studied it; it is not less invaluable to the internist, for, as Osler says, it is largely the surgeons who have made possible modern knowledge of the functions, physiological and pathological, of the digestive tract. And foremost among these pioneers in "The Pathology of the Living" stands Moynihan.

Some of his statements will not be accepted without controversy in America and on the continent. His advocacy of purging (p. 72 and 125, Vol. 1) and "milking" the gut (p. 408, Vol. 1, and p. 105, Vol. 2) in peritonitis, his use of paraffin in the abdomen to avoid adhesions (p. 135, Vol. 1), his statement that in opening the abdomen "muscular fibres are always to be separated, never to be cut" (p. 105, Vol. 1) may be cited as examples. In the chapters on injuries to the solid viscera one misses mention of methods of arresting hemorrhage by tamponade with grafts of fascia, fat or omentum.

The chapters on the stomach, duodenum, and bile passages stand out pre-eminent among the contents of this admirable work.

L. E.

Differential Diagnosis. Presented through an analysis of 317 cases. By Richard C. Cabot, M. D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Harvard Medical School. Octavo of 709 pages, 254 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1914. Cloth, \$5.50; half morocco, \$7.00.

The large number for whom Dr. Cabot's Differential Diagnosis has combined to an unusual degree, instruction with fascinating interest, will welcome a second volume on exactly the same plan. As before, various "leading symptoms" as diarrhea, hemoptysis, fainting, etc., have been illustrated by a series of cases from the Massachusetts General Hospital. Each case is carefully described and analyzed, with autopsy or operation reports or other data as to outcome appended. To each chapter is prefaced a general discussion of the symptoms under consideration written in Dr. Cabot's breezy style, and very useful tables as to frequency of the various causes for the condition. This book, like all Dr. Cabot's writings, exhibits his destructive attitude toward grizzled doctrines not sufficiently supported by proof, and as has occurred before, some will take umbrage when their cherished beliefs are thus made light of. As in the previous volume there will be many of the author's opinions and diagnoses to which the reader will not agree, but this very element of uncertainty is the characteristic of medical practice which makes it the most fascinating game there is. If the reader were to draw from the book only the lesson that dogma and certainly are impossible in medical practice, he will be fully repaid. The book is profusely illustrated with diagrams and charts of various kinds.

J. L. W.

Dietetics: or Food in Health and Disease. By William Tibbles, LL.D., M.D., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L. S. A. Medical Officer of Health, Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health, etc. Octavo, 627 pages. Cloth, \$4.00 net. Lea & Febiger, publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1914.

This book dealing with food in health and disease, with the author's previous work on "Foods": their origin, composition and manufacture, forms a complete system of dietetics.

The author calls attention to the great amount